

Childminding with Rebecca

Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced
Inspection completed on: 11 March 2022

Service provided by:
Rebecca Wight

Service provider number:
SP2019990542

Care service number:
CS2019375027

Introduction

The service was registered with the Care Inspectorate on 27 July 2019.

Mrs Wight is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of six children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of the children of the childminder's family.

The childminder's home is situated in a rural village within walking distance of a school and playpark. There is an outdoor play area to the side and rear of the premises.

What we did during our inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 7 March 2022 . One inspector carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered through the inspection year. To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with a parent
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

As part of this inspection, we took into consideration Key Question 5 - Operating an early learning and childcare setting (including out of school care and childminders) during Covid-19 with a specific focus on Quality indicator 5.2: Infection prevention and control practices support a safe environment for children and staff. We will report on the overall performance of this indicator in Theme 1 Quality Care and Support.

Views of people using the service

Parents told us that they were happy with the service and felt fortunate to have the childminder caring for their child. Their child enjoyed playing in the garden especially the mud kitchen and had lots of messy and creative play. The childminder was responsive to their child's needs, they felt confident and assured that their child was well cared for and safe.

The young child told us that they had been for a walk and that they had said hello to their favourite cows.

Self assessment

Not requested.

What the service did well

The childminder provided a responsive and nurturing service; their interactions supported the child's wellbeing and development. Children had experiences that enabled them to have fun with creative and exploratory play and also learn about the wider world in the local community.

The childminder had established positive relationships with parents, that enabled them to work together in a meaningful way and that supported the best interest of the child.

What the service could do better

The childminder consolidates a consistent approach to the review of information, a minimum of six monthly, with parents and children (where possible), to support the holistic approach to wellbeing.

The childminder increases open ended, natural and real-life resources so that children are given wider opportunities to explore and problem solve.

We suggested that the childminder recorded changes to the service as they occurred to support self evaluation and continuous improvement.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	4 - Good
Quality of environment	4 - Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	4 - Good

Quality of care and support

Findings from the inspection

We evaluated this quality theme as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

The childminder's natural and attentive approach helped children to build a positive relationship. The childminder was helping the young minded child to be socially comfortable with their own baby in recognition of the benefits of children learning about others through play. We saw lots of eye contact and smiles between both of the children. Parents told us how they considered their child had benefited from the relationship they had formed with the childminder's children. The young child had recently returned to the service following a break and was settling back in well they were clearly relaxed and happy.

The childminder had got to know the child's needs, preferences and personalities well. Parents told us that the childminder had met with them and their child before the service resumed and how they had discussed any changes. The personal plan consisted of key information such as family details, health needs, likes/ dislikes and interests. The childminder recognised that having such information updated, especially following their break from childminding, would help with the continuity of responsive care. The childminder took prompt action to include parents in the update of the personal plan. We advised the childminder that a consistent system of review, at least every 6 months, would help to support a holistic approach to wellbeing. We also discussed how chronologies were beneficial tools for the purposes of monitoring and assessment, to help the child with the right support at the right time. Reference: hub.careinspectorate.com

Parents told us that they were happy with the level of information shared; verbal discussion, an interactive software application and telephone calls, helped them to be involved in their child's care. They considered that the childminder had got to know their child well and took account of their interests, such as favourite play activities.

We saw that the childminder listened respectfully to the child and asked them what they wanted to do. The child enjoyed singing along to songs and then chose to sing their own nursery rhyme. The childminder supported the child well in preparation for their nap, ensuring that they had their milk and comfort blanket for assurance.

In recognition of the benefits on children's health and wellbeing and development, the childminder promoted outdoor play in the fresh air. They promoted healthy packed lunches and the child sat at the table to eat their food which had been served on a plate. It was a calm and pleasant experience where the child enjoyed the company of the childminder's baby and the childminder sat with them and supported them well.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children. Such as, children being supported to wash their hands well and plenty of opportunity for outdoor play in the fresh air.

The childminder had completed an on-line course to refresh their understanding of child protection to safeguard children. However, they planned to undertake local authority training when possible to gain local knowledge. We advised of some minor changes to the child protection policy in relation to agency contacts. We referred the, to the local authority child protection website, that also held relevant information/guidance.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of environment

Findings from the inspection

We evaluated this quality theme as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

Children benefited from being cared for in a clean and well maintained environment that was conducive to their safety and wellbeing. Suitable equipment such as safety gates and personal protective equipment (PPE) should there be any contact with bodily fluids, were in place. The childminder kept the premises and activities under review to assess and mitigate risk. We discussed this in

relation to the location of nappy changing and the use of the upstairs bathroom for such purposes to support good infection control practice. A travel cot was generally used to promote safe sleep for young children. To best support children's comfort and wellbeing, we discussed alternative sleep arrangements to that of buggies, with the childminder.

The childminder had completed first aid training to ensure that they had appropriate knowledge to treat children should an accident occur. The childminder had a suitable format for recording accidents/incidents to ensure that correct information was held and exchanged with parents/carers.

The childminder was using the lounge for the purposes of childminding, the space had been recently adapted. Open storage units enabled children to make choices in their play, and a wooden play kitchen supported imaginary play. We suggested an increase in open ended, natural and real-life resources, would provide children with wider opportunities to explore and problem solve. Ref: loose parts toolkit, our creative journey and realising the ambition: being me - hub.careinspectorate.com may be helpful.

Space was being well utilised; the arrangement of furniture in the main lounge enabled children to enjoy floor activities such as; play sets and construction. During the inspection a child looked at a selection of books and after a visit to the park they chose to rest on the sofa a while and sing some songs. The table in the kitchen was used for some table top activities and a tuff tray for messy and sensory play.

A secure outdoor play area was accessible from the kitchen/diner. It was equipped with a mud kitchen/digging area and we saw that children had been digging with spades and filling different pots. A tuff tray on a stand had been filled with wet sand and children had created a dinosaur island. Such activities supported children's imaginary and creative play. A lawn on the upper level had a slide and was used on occasions for active play.

Children visited a nearby play park, went for country walks and also visited a local farm to see some of the animals, this helped to support children's understanding of the wider world. With help from the childminder the young child told us that they had seen a Highland cow on their walk that morning and they would soon see the baby lambs too.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

Quality of management and leadership

Findings from the inspection

We evaluated this quality theme as good where several strengths impacted positively on outcomes for children and clearly outweighed areas for improvement.

The childminder had completed some training with a view to improving their own knowledge and the service provision. They had completed core training such as first aid, child protection and first aid. Other training had included STEM (science, technology, engineering, and maths) and adverse childhood experiences. The childminder talked about the benefits of the training how it was making a difference in supporting children's care and development.

Whilst the childminder had asked parents to formally share their views about the service and children led their play and learning, they recognised that this was an area for development. We suggested that the childminder used a manageable improvement plan to record changes as they occurred to support a continuous approach. Changes to practice, the views of children and parents, impact of training or reading best practice documents could also be included. The process would also help with reflection of practice and evaluation of the service. We referred the childminder to the early years improvement programme on the Care Inspectorate hub for further guidance -<https://hub.careinspectorate.com/how-we-support-improvement/care-inspectorate-programmes-and-publications/early-learning-and-childcare-improvement-programme>

The childminder had previous experience of working in an early years setting and had completed a relevant childcare qualification. They were able to demonstrate that their skills and knowledge had been beneficial in the development of their childminding service. Documentation and records were well organised and relevant information was readily available. The childminder had introduced a childcare software package that supported the running of the service for the purposes of documentation and sharing information with parents.

The childminder was motivated to provide a service that met the needs of children and their families well. Parents told us that the childminder was friendly and caring, and open to conversations, they would certainly feel comfortable to raise any queries or concerns they may have.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 4 - good

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

Inspection and grading history

This service does not have any prior inspection history or grades.

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